Amendments to the Specification:

On page 1, line 1, please delete the first title "Description".

On page 1, prior to the first paragraph which begins on line 4, please insert the following:

TECHNICAL FIELD

On page 1, prior to the second paragraph which begins on line 6, please insert the following:

BACKGROUND DISCUSSION

On page 2, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 23, please insert the following:

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 2, line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

This object is achieved by the ~~features as defined in claim 1~~ encryption occurring in a network-connected control unit, in a separate exchangeable control module.

On page 2, please delete the paragraph which appears on lines 26 and 27.

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 2, line 28 and ends on line 30, with the following rewritten paragraph:

An essential idea of the invention, as noted, is that the data exchanged via a communication network of process automation technology are encrypted in the control unit with the help of a separate, exchangeable software module.

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 9, please insert the following:

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

On page 3, prior to the paragraph which begins on line 14, please insert the following:

DETAILED DISCUSSION

Please replace the paragraph which appears on page 3, line 14 and ends on line 25, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 1 shows a process-automation communications-network. Connected to a databus D1 are a plurality of computer units (work stations) WS1, WS2. These computer units serve as superordinated units (control system or control units) for process visualization, process monitoring and for engineering, as well as for interacting with and monitoring field devices. Databus D1 works, e.g., according to the Profibus® DP standard or according to the HSE (High Speed Ethernet) standard of Foundation® Fieldbus. Via a gateway 1(G1), which is referred to as a linking device or as a segment coupler, databus D1 is connected with a field bus segment SM1. The field bus segment SM1 is formed by a plurality of field devices F1, F2, F3, F4, which are connected together via a field bus FB. The field devices F1, F2, F3, F4 can be both sensors and actuators. Field bus FB works according to one of the known field bus standards Profibus, Foundation Fieldbus or HART.

Please replace the last paragraph which appears on page 3, line 26 and ends on line 34, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Fig. 2 shows, schematically, an operating program, which runs on one of the control units WS1, WS2, or on ~~someother~~ some other interaction unit, such as a laptop or a hand-held. The operating program can be the operating software PACTware (PACTware Consortium e.V.) or FieldCare® (of the firm Endress + Hauser®), which both require, as the operating system, Microsoft Windows® 98NT or 2000 and which serve as FDT-frame-applications. The FDT-frame-application is, especially, responsible for managing the DTMs in a project database, for the communications to the bus systems, for the managing of the device catalogs, as well as for the managing of the users and access rights, etc..

Please replace the first paragraph which appears on page 4, line 1 and ends on line 8, with the following rewritten paragraph:

Running in the FDT frame application are: A device DTM, DTM-F1; an encryption DTM, V; and a communications DTM, Comm DTM. The device DTM, DTM-F1, which is also referred to as a device driver, encapsulates the data and functions of the field device F1 and requires, as run time environment, the FDT frame application. With the help of this DTM, a device- and ~~manufacturer-transparent~~[manufacturer-transparent interaction with the field device F1 is possible. Especially, the DTM-F1 allows access to device parameters, device configuration, downloading of diagnostic data and status information via a manufacturer-specific, graphical user interface.